

Message Text

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S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 020268

NODIS

FOR SEITZ-LONDON

FOL RPT DAR ES SALAAM 0347 ACTION SECSTATE 27 JAN QUOTE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 0347

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, TZ, RH, PPDC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NYERERE ON NEXT STEPS FOR RHODESIA

REF: (A) STATE 17344 (B) STATE 17087

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE WELCOMES PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER, OFFERS ASSURANCES OF HIS COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT INSISTS ONLY VIABLE FORMULA FOR THESE IS CONTINUED BRITISH-AFRICAN NATIONALIST TALKS TO PRODUCE AGREED PACKAGE FOR RHODESIA. IMPLEMENTATION OF PACKAGE WILL THEN BE SECOND PHASE OF SOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

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2. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER (REF.A) TO PRESIDENT NYERERE AT HIS BEACH HOUSE LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 27. NYERERE READ LETTER CAREFULLY, EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR EXTRAORDINARILY FAST CONTACT BY NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT, AND SAID LETTER HAD GONE CONSIDERABLE WAY TO ANSWER KEY QUESTION HE HAD INTENDED POSE TO ME.

3. THIS QUESTION WAS : "WHAT SHOULD WE ALL DO NOW ABOUT A RHODESIAN

SOLUTION?" HIS ANSWER WAS THAT ABOVE ALL TALKS SHOULD CONTINUE. HE WAS VERY UNHAPPY OVER BRITISH STATEMENTS THAT TALKS HAD COLLAPSED AND THAT "GAME WAS OVER." HE WAS PRESSING UK TO GO ON AND WOULD APPRECIATE OUR DOING SO ALSO.

4. NYERERE SAID HE HAD ALWAYS GIVEN GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MOVING ON RHODESIA ON TWO FRONTS, THE MILITARY AND THE DIPLOMATIC. HE SAW THE FIGHTERS' ROLE AS HELPING TO DELIVER SMITH TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE TO TURN OVER POWER, NOT AS CAPTURING SALISBURY. TO GO BACK NOW TO THE MILITARY OPTION ALONE WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE. THE "BOYS" (I.E. THE FIGHTERS) WOULD NEVER WAIT FOR A COMPLETE NEW DIPLOMATIC EFFORT. US-TANZANIAN COOPERATION ON THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM WOULD BE MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

5. WHAT THE BRITISH MUST DO IS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE TALKS WITH THE NATIONALISTS UNTIL THEY HAD REACHED AN AGREED PACKAGE. THE PROBLEM WAS A MUTUAL ONE TO THEM. MUCH AS BRITISH MIGHT LIKE TO, THEY COULD NO LONGER LOOK UPON THEMSELVES SIMPLY AS REFEREE WHO COULD GO HOME WHEN ONE PLAYER LEFT THE FIELD. GETTING AN AGREED PACKAGE IMPLEMENTED WAS THE WORK OF A SECOND PHASE; WE COULD ALL TURN TO THAT LATER IN OUR DIFFERENT DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY WAYS.

6. RE PARA 2 REF B, NYERERE OFFERED WITHOUT QUALIFICATION ASSURANCES OF HIS DESIRE TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR NEGOTIATIONS BUT HE INSISTED THE MILITARY FRONT MUST BE MAINTAINED ALSO. HIS FIRST POSITION SEEMED TO BE THAT ONLY VIABLE WAY TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS GOING WAS CONTINUATION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH SMITH'S CHAIR VACANT. IN RESPONSE TO A LITTLE PROBING, HE RAPIDLY REFINED HIS FORMULA TO THE FOLLOWING: THE BRITISH AND THE
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NATIONALISTS MUST CONTINUE TALKING UNTIL THEY HAVE DEVELOPED A PACKAGE SOLUTION. THEY CAN TALK ANYWHERE AND ANYWAY THEY WANT. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE IN GENEVA. WHEN THEY GET SOMETHING, WE CAN ALL TURN TO SMITH AND SAY "THIS IS IT*"

7. NYERERE WAS EAGER TO MAKE CLEAR HIS COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS BUT HE HAS OBVIOUSLY ALREADY SETTLED ON A VERY SPECIFIC FORH FOR THEM. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT ABSOLUTELY RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF OTHER APPROACHES TO OUR MUTUALLY AGREED GOAL OF CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS. IF WE HAVE ANY OTHER FORMULA, I BELIEVE THAT THE SOONER WE TRY IT OUT ON HIM, THE MORE RECEPTIVE HE IS LIKELY TO BE TO IT.

8. THIS MESSAGE SENT NODIS IN PART BECAUSE OF REF A. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO LONDON, GENEVA, LUSAKA, MAPUTO, LAGOS, AND USUN.
SPAIN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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